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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 2

**45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002**

INTRODUCED BY

Ray Begaye

FOR THE TOBACCO SETTLEMENT REVENUE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE TOBACCO SETTLEMENT REVENUE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE AND THE INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WORK WITH ALL TWENTY-TWO INDIAN NATIONS, TRIBES AND PUEBLOS IN THE STATE TO EXPLORE SMOKING PREVENTION AND CESSATION STRATEGIES THROUGH THE IMPOSITION OF TAXES OR INCREASE OF TAXES ON THE SALE OF CIGARETTES.

WHEREAS, every year over twenty-six billion packs of cigarettes are sold; and

WHEREAS, smoking kills more than four hundred thousand people every year; and

WHEREAS, someone dies from a smoking-related illness every thirteen seconds; and

WHEREAS, the younger a person is when he starts using tobacco, the more likely he is to become strongly addicted to nicotine; and

WHEREAS, fifty percent of the smokers in New Mexico began smoking between the ages of fourteen and eighteen years of age; and

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1           WHEREAS, smoking prevention and cessation programs are  
2 proving to be effective at preventing youth smoking addiction;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, taxes on cigarettes, which raise the price of  
5 cigarettes, on both state and tribal land, are also a  
6 deterrent to smoking addiction; and

7           WHEREAS, many other states and Indian nation, tribal and  
8 pueblo governments have been effective at preventing smoking  
9 addiction through the imposition of taxes on the sale of  
10 cigarettes;

11           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
12 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the tobacco settlement revenue  
13 oversight committee and the Indian affairs committee be  
14 requested to work with all twenty-two Indian nations, tribes  
15 and pueblos to explore smoking prevention and cessation  
16 strategies through the imposition of taxes or increase of  
17 taxes on the sale of cigarettes; and

18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that officials of other states be  
19 requested to attend the interim committee meetings to inform  
20 the committees of any solutions agreed upon within their  
21 respective states regarding the taxation of cigarettes on  
22 Indian nation, tribal and pueblo lands; and

23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
24 transmitted to the chairmen of the tobacco settlement revenue  
25 oversight committee and the Indian affairs committee.

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